

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OES-07
OMB-01 TRSE-00 DLOS-09 INT-05 CG-00 DOTE-00 DOE-11
SOE-02 COME-00 /096 W
-----029070 171701Z /43

P R 171505Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5460
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 OSLO 1323

SHAPE FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIS, PBOR, NO, UR, SV
SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN-SOVIET FISHERIES DISCUSSIONS

REF: OSLO 1201

1. LOS MINISTER EVENSEN RETURNED FROM MOSCOW ON MARCH 16.
HE IS SCHEDULED TO BRIEF THE GOVERNMENT ON HIS TALKS ON MARCH
17. THE TEXT OF THE COMMUNIQUE AND OBSERVATIONS ON IT AND ITS
EXPECTED IMPACT HERE ARE GIVEN BELOW.

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2. THE COMMUNIQUE (UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION) READS AS FOLLOWS:
BEGIN TEXT: AT THE INVITATION OF THE SOVIET FISHERY MINISTER
A NORWEGIAN DELEGATION CHAIRED BY LOS MINISTER JENS EVENSEN
WAS IN THE SOVIET UNION FROM MARCH 13 TO 16, 1978. DURING THE
MEETING WHICH TOOK PLACE BETWEEN DELEGATIONS FROM THE SOVIET
UNION AND NORWAY, LEAD BY MINISTERS A.A. ISJKOV AND JENS
EVENSEN, DISCUSSION WAS CONTINUED ON MATTERS RELATING

TO FURTHER FISHERY REGULATION MEASURES IN THE BARENTS SEA AND NORWEGIAN SEA.

3. "THE PARTIES REAFFIRMED THEIR COMMON INTEREST IN AND COMMON RESPONSIBILITY FOR PREPARATION OF MEASURES WHICH APPLY TO PRESERVATION OF THE LIVE RESOURCES IN THE NORWEGIAN SEA AND BARENTS SEA, THE ESSENTIAL AREAS OF WHICH REPRESENT A UNIFORM ECOLOGIC SYSTEM.

4. "DURING THE DISCUSSION OF QUESTIONS OF FURTHER FISHERY REGULATION MEASURES IN THE SVALBARD AREA THE PARTIES DECLARED THAT THERE WAS NEED FOR NON-DISCRIMINATORY MEASURES FOR PROTECTION OF YOUNG FISH, AND THAT THESE MEASURES MUST BE BASED ON OBJECTIVE SCIENTIFIC DATA.

5. "THE PARTIES RECOGNIZED THAT FISH POPULATIONS WHICH MIGRATE BETWEEN SEVERAL ZONES IN THE BARENTS SEA AND NORWEGIAN SEA MUST BE SUBJECTED TO REGULATIONS IN ALL AREAS, INCLUDING SVALBARD. THEY RECOGNIZED THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO ENFORCE EFFECTIVE PROTECTION MEASURES FOR ARCTIC COD IN ACCORDANCE WITH NEAFC'S RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH STIPULATE MINIMUM MESH WIDTH AND MINIMUM SIZE FOR COD.

6. "WITH A VIEW TO PREVENT TOO HEAVY TAXATION OF YOUNG FISH IN PARTICULAR THE PARTIES RECOGNIZED THAT THERE IS NEED FOR INTRODUCTION OF SEPARATE ZONES WHERE ALL FISHING WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL

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COMPELTELY OR PARTLY BANNED ON NON-DISCRIMINATORY BASIS.

7. "THE PARTIES RECOGNIZED THE NECESSITY OF INTRODUCING OBLIGATORY REPORTING FOR ALL COUNTRIES ENGAGED IN FISHING IN THE AREA. SUCH DATA AS ARE RECEIVED FROM ALL COUNTRIES MUST ENSURE AN OBJECTIVE EVALUATION OF THE FISHERY INTENSITY IN THE AREA. THE DATA COLLECTED FROM THE REPORTS SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE OTHER PARTY.

8. "WITH REGARD TO THE LEGAL BASIS FOR STIPULATION, IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF REGULATION MEASURES FOR THE FISHERY OFF SVALBARD THE PARTIES ADHERE TO THEIR PRINCIPAL POINTS OF VIEW." END TEXT.

9. COMMENT: AT FIRST READING, THE COMMUNIQUE APPEARS TO BE DELIBERATELY VAGUE AND TO CONTAIN SEVERAL HINTS OF A CONDOMINIUM APPROACH TO THE NORTHERN WATERS. THE REFERENCE (PARA 3 ABOVE) TO "COMMON INTEREST AND COMMON RESPONSIBILITY FOR PREPARATION OF MEASURES" WILL PROBABLY DRAW DRITICISM FROM A NUMBER OF QUARTERS. THE SAME IS TRUE OF THE STATEMENT (PARA 7) ABOVE THAT "DATA COLLECTED FROM THE REPORTS SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE OTHER PARTY." THE AREA REFERENCES

(BARENTS SEA, NORWEGIAN SEA, SVALBARD AREA, "IN THE AREA")
ALL APPEAR TO DEMAND CLARIFICATION AS WELL. THE INDICATION
(PARA 8 ABOVE) THAT THE USSR STILL REFUSES TO RECOGNIZE
NORWAY'S LEGAL RIGHTS TO IMPLEMENT THE SVALBARD FPZ ALSO
CONSTITUTES A POTENTIAL BASIS FOR CRITICISM OF THE GON'S

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P R 171505Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5461
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 OSLO 1323

HANDLING OF THIS MATTER.

10. THE NON-SOCIALIST OPPOSITION, WHICH HAD PLANNED TO
MAKE A PUBLIC RECORD OF THEIR SERIOUS MISGIVINGS ABOUT
THE "GREY ZONE" AGREEMENT IN THE MARCH 9 STORTING DEBATE,
ONLY TO SEE THE CENTRAL ISSUES SIDETRACKED IN THE FLURRY
OVER PRESS LEAKS FROM WASHINGTON (REFTEL) MAY SEIZE ON THE
AMBIQUITIES AND OBLIQUE INDICATIONS OF BILATERALISM IN THE
MOSCOW TALKS COMMUNIQUE TO ATTACK THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING
OF NORTHERN ISSUES. MUCH WILL DEPEND ON EVENSEN'S MARCH 17
BRIEFING OF THE GON, AND THE GOVERNMENT'S SUBSEQUENT BRIEFING
OF THE STORTING AND THE PUBLIC. END COMMENT.

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11. THE EMBASSY DOES NOT INTEND AT THIS TIME TO MAKE ANY
INQUIRIES ABOUT THE MOSCOW TALKS, BUT RATHER WAIT FOR THE
GON TO OFFER A BRIEFING. IN THAT EVENT, WE INTEND TO
RECEIVE THEIR REMARKS WITH A MINIMUM OF COMMENT.
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Message Attributes

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